

Appl. No.: 09/489,539
Response to Office communication of: 4/10/2003
docket no.: DEXNON/096/US

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (presently amended) A fibrous non-woven non-heat seal porous web material consisting of a single, non-hydroentangled wet laid layer and comprising a substantially homogeneous mixture of 0.5 to 25 percent by weight of synthetic, thermoplastic material with natural fibers comprising the remainder of said web material.
2. (presently amended) The web material of claim 1, comprising 1 to 10 percent by weight synthetic thermoplastic material.
3. (previously presented) The web material of claim 2, wherein the natural fibers are selected from jute, kraft, abaca, hemp, kenaf, wood and mixtures thereof.
4. (previously presented) The web material of claim 1, having a basis weight of 9 to 19 g/m².
5. (presently amended) The web material of claim 1, wherein the synthetic thermoplastic material is not fully thermally activated.
6. (presently amended) The web material of claim 1, wherein the synthetic thermoplastic material comprises synthetic pulp having a micro-fibrillar structure with natural fibers comprising the remainder of said web material.
7. (original) The web material of claim 6, wherein the synthetic pulp consists of a polyolefin material.
8. (presently amended) The web material of claim 1, wherein the synthetic thermoplastic material is selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester and

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mixtures thereof.

9. (presently amended) The web material of claim 1 comprising first phase furnish constituents comprising at least one of synthetic thermoplastic material or natural fibers and second phase furnish constituents comprising at least one of synthetic thermoplastic material or natural fibers, wherein the constituents of each phase furnish are substantially homogeneously distributed throughout the single wet laid layer.

10. cancelled

11. (previously presented) The web material of claim 1, wherein the natural fibers comprise long natural fibers.

12. (presently amended) The web material of claim 1 having a dry crimp strength at least twenty percent greater than a fibrous non-woven non-heat seal porous web material consisting of the same fibers but without the synthetic thermoplastic material.

13. cancelled

14. (original) The web material of claim 1 having a first color within the range of 6 to 8 seconds and a %transmittance within the range of 50 to 75.

15. (withdrawn) An infusion package comprising the web material of claim 1 having a basis weight of 9 to 19 g/m², said web material being mechanically folded without heat sealing to enclose a beverage precursor material therein.

16. (presently amended) A process of making a fibrous non-woven non-heat seal porous web material of enhanced dry crimp strength consisting of a single layer and comprising:

forming a slurry of natural fibers;
adding synthetic thermoplastic materials to said slurry to form a furnish;
wet laying said furnish to form a single layer web; and
drying said web to form said web material, wherein the web is not hydroentangled and amount and activation of synthetic thermoplastic materials in the web material provides the web material with a heat seal seam strength that is not acceptable for use as a heat sealable, infusion packaging web material.

17. (presently amended) The process of claim 16, wherein said web material comprises 0.5 to 25 percent synthetic thermoplastic materials.

18. (presently amended) The process of claim 16, wherein said web material has a basis weight of 11 to 17 g/m² and comprises 1 to 10 percent synthetic thermoplastic materials.

19. cancelled

20. (original) The process of claim 16, wherein said web material has a first color within the range of 6 to 8 seconds and a %transmittance within the range of 50 to 75.

21. (presently amended) The process of claim 16 including the steps of forming an additional furnish comprising at least one of synthetic thermoplastic material or natural fibers and wet laying one of the furnishes over the other furnish to form the single layer web, wherein the synthetic thermoplastic material and natural fibers are substantially homogeneously distributed throughout the single layer web.

22. (presently amended) A non-woven porous infusion web material, wherein:
the web material consists of a single, wet laid, non-hydroentangled layer;
the web material has a basis weight from about 9 g/m² to about 19 g/m²;

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the web material has a first color of less than 12 seconds and a %transmittance within the range of about 50 to about 75 is acceptable for use as infusion packaging web material;

the web material has a heat seal seam strength of less than 100 g/in that is unacceptable for use as a heat sealable, infusion packaging web material; and

the web material comprises a substantially homogeneous mixture of about 0.5 percent to about 25 percent by weight of synthetic material selected from polyethylene, polypropylene, polyester and mixtures thereof and about 75 percent to about 95.5 percent of natural fibers.